

## *JCC–Nampa Vocations Classroom Gets New Pots and Pans*



There was reason to celebrate at JCC–Nampa on November 19, 2008. On this day, Capital Educators Federal Credit Union CEO, Todd Erickson, presented Rob Fehrer and Colleen Foster(JCC–Nampa’s Vocational Instructor and Drug and Alcohol Counselor) with the Teacher of the Month award, which came with a check in the amount of \$750 and a beautiful plaque that is proudly displayed in the JCC–Nampa lobby. Colleen saw a need and encouraged and assisted Rob to apply for the Capital Educators Federal Credit Union grant. Rob and Colleen’s goal is that of improving the equipment and supplies available to Choices juveniles in their Vocations class cooking unit. The young men take pride in the accomplishments they make in the kitchen, but as one young man put it, “The food is great, but we have ghetto pans to serve it in!” The money will buy new pans, bakeware, utensils, serving dishes, possibly a set of Dutch ovens and staple supplies for their cooking projects.

The projects the juvenile offenders work on teach them teamwork, in addition to supplementing educational and treatment goals. One example is the Gratitude Dinner that Competency level juveniles recently planned, prepared, and served to members of their families or others they felt they needed to make amends to, recognize for what they had taught them or provided for them. In another upcoming event, each of the three classes of 12 juveniles will be planning, cooking, and serving a meal for one of the other groups. Events like these give juveniles the opportunity to recognize the powerful experience of service towards others and allow them to practice the competency skills they are learning in a practical and real-life setting.

